

Amendments to the Specification are as follows:

Before the first sentence on page 1 please insert the following paragraph.

This application claims the benefit of priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-066221, herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 and ending on page 4, line 4 as follows:

Accordingly, embodiments~~an object~~ of the present invention is to provide a thin-film magnetic head that can be properly compatible with narrower tracks, have a shorter magnetic path, and improve the recording characteristics.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 and ending on page 4, line 6 as follows:

Embodiments~~Another object~~ of the present invention also~~is to~~ provide an easy method for manufacturing this magnetic head.